

Foreign students paired with Carolina Friends

By SHARON KEBSCHULL
Editor

"It's pretty wild taking someone from mainland China into McDonald's or taking them into a grocery store and showing them shelves of cereal when all they're used to is little markets."

But that kind of experience is what students who participate in the Carolina Friends program can expect, said Tracy Hall, assistant for the program that matches up incoming foreign students with UNC graduates and upperclassmen to show them around Chapel Hill.

"The program is designed to provide initial contact for students on campus," Hall said. "It's a very difficult time... the culture shock is tremendous."

The International Center program matches about 200 to 220 international students, mostly graduates, each year, Hall said. It tries to have one Campus Friend for each student, but that may not work this year, he said.

"We have a lower turnout (of applications) this year because we weren't able to advertise as extensively as I had hoped," Hall said. "Last year the response was overwhelming."

The program has only received about 50 applications, he said.

The program will accept lowerclassmen as Campus Friends, but it prefers upperclassmen who really know their way around Chapel Hill and the University, he said. It sometimes also accepts UNC

employees who are interested in helping foreign students.

The time commitment varies for each student, Hall said, but the main requirement is that each student come to the first party Aug. 27 to meet the international student assigned to him. That is held in the Student Union's Great Hall, complete with a band to welcome students and make the first meeting enjoyable, he said.

After that, it's up to the students to work out how often they need to meet or just be available for questions, he said.

"Some students need hardly any help at all, and some just need someone to talk to," Hall said.

Expertise in another language is not a requirement, he said; most foreign students coming into the University have very good English because they had to pass a stringent language test when they applied.

There is only an occasional problem when students have very good written skills but not such good verbal skills, he said.

Students who aren't interested or don't have time to participate in the whole program can volunteer just to pick students up from Raleigh-Durham Airport the week of Aug. 22 or find them a place to stay for a few nights while the foreign students look for apartments, he said. Many just let international students sleep on their floor for a few nights, he said.

This is especially important for Western European students who don't have an extensive network on campus or clubs to represent them, Hall said.

Interested students should contact Hall at the International Center in the Student Union at 962-5661 between 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. daily for more information.

Water supply constant

By ANDREW LAWLER
Staff Writer

While much of the United States sweaters under record heat and low water levels, Chapel Hill remains in relatively good shape, and fears of a repetition of 1986's water restrictions are unfounded, according to Orange County Water and Sewer Authority and University housing officials.

Pat Davis, assistant to the executive director of OWASA, said while it is too early to say for sure if Chapel Hill will need water restrictions, it seems unlikely at the moment.

"Water levels are normal for this time of year," he said. "University Lake is 13 inches below full and the quarry is 13 inches below full."

In comparison, University Lake was 36 inches below full in 1986, and the quarry was 49½ inches below full.

But Davis cautioned that an extremely hot and dry July and August could lead to some conservation steps.

"Then again, one good rainfall can change things drastically for the better. It's all hard to say," he said.

When students return in fall, water demand increases from 15 to 20 percent. On-campus housing officials said they are not planning to implement any dormitory water conservation rules, such as four-minute showers.

The National Weather Service has predicted above-normal rainfall for July in the Triangle.

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ROLL	TIRE	ANEST
GIVE	EDAM	ICAME
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CANE	TRASH	EROS
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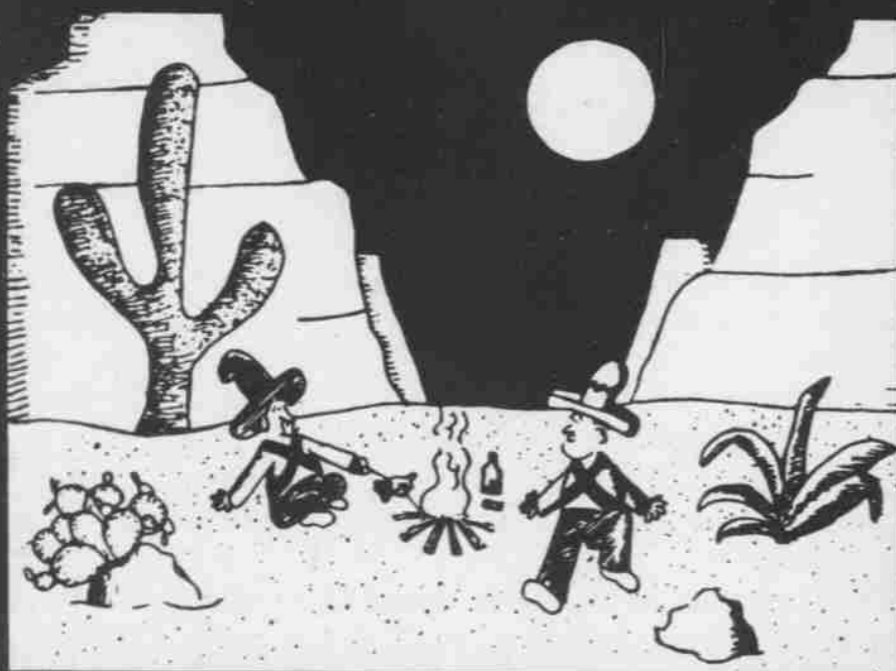
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